

Wiest House

Reisterstown, Maryland

Private Access

410 MAIN STREET is among the oldest structures in Reisterstown, identified in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax Records as the eighteenth century dwelling of a very prosperous citizen. It retains much original detailing as well as good later detailing. The combination of brick and stone in the two sections is interesting, probably related to a desire for greater sophistication in the brick addition. The preservation of the extremely large fireplace is of significance as is the brick smokehouse, indicative of the many outbuildings once required to support rural and village life.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA-167

MAI #0301675203

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

West House 1790's

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

410 Main Street

6th

CITY, TOWN

Reisterstown

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore County

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
___ STRUCTURE
___ SITE
___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
___ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
___ IN PROCESS
___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
___ UNOCCUPIED
___ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
___ YES: UNRESTRICTED
___ NO

PRESENT USE

___ AGRICULTURE
___ COMMERCIAL
___ EDUCATIONAL
___ ENTERTAINMENT
___ GOVERNMENT
___ INDUSTRIAL
___ MILITARY
___ MUSEUM
___ PARK
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
___ RELIGIOUS
___ SCIENTIFIC
___ TRANSPORTATION
___ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

William H. Kahl

Telephone #: 429-2954

STREET & NUMBER

Kemp Road

CITY, TOWN

Reisterstown

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland, 21136

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County

Liber #: 4996
Folio #: 453

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Towson,

STATE
Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

McGrain, John

Industrial-Archaeological Survey of the N.W. Transportation Corridor-1975

DATE

1975

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ☒ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Baltimore County Office of Planning and Zoning

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE
Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

B4-167

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

410 MAIN STREET is a two and one half storey stone and brick structure, five bays in length, facing the street to the east, with a two storey rear wing extending behind the northerly portion, its first storey of stuccoed stone, its second of frame. The entire front is stuccoed as is the north end; the south end and rear or west facade is of exposed brick in common bond, every sixth course headers. A brick smokehouse is attached to the west end of the rear wing and it has been extended in frame toward the north to adapt it as a garage.

The northerly three bays, and probably the rear wing as well, all of stone construction, are original; the southerly bays were added in brick construction at an early date. The northerly three bays measure approximately $23\frac{1}{2}$ feet across the street front, $26\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep; the rear wing is 19×20 . The southerly addition is approximately $18\frac{1}{2}$ feet across the street front and $33\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep, the extra depth causing the lower rear eave across that section. The entire house, except for the second storey of the rear wing, dates from the late eighteenth century, identified in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax as a two storey stone dwelling house with a brick addition 40×27 , a one storey stone addition 17×17 .

A single wide chimney rises flush with the north gable. A large single flue rises above the northwest corner of the rear wing. A pair of brick chimneys rises flush with the south gable and that gable wall rises as a parapet to link the chimneys with a shallow pent having a shed roof sloping down toward the north, providing access to the roof.

Windows are generally 2/2 with narrow frames and louvred blinds, all late nineteenth century replacement details. The principal entrance, centered in the east front, has sidelights and transom, also dating from the late nineteenth century. Other nineteenth century changes include the one storey porch which extends across the street facade, the wide eave and rake cornices, the steep gable in the front roof slope and the dormers.

A crack in the stucco and the alignment of the perpendicular wall behind it between the center hall and the southerly room indicates the northerly section to be the original. The staircase in the center hall is enclosed, a recent change related to converting this dwelling to apartments. The door to the north room has six fully raised panels with integral ovolo mouldings without fillets on stiles and rails; it is hung on long strap hinges swinging on pintels driven into the architrave frame, joined with pegged mortise-and-tenon, and having an applied ovolo backband. The large iron rim lock has small brass knobs, oval in shape. Window trim of the northerly room is wide and plain with a bead, related to the late nineteenth century window changes. The mantel also dates from the late nineteenth century, with wood pilasters supporting an arched frieze and scrolled shelf. In the west end of the single room within the rear wing is a large fireplace having a firebox $5'-2"$ wide, $3'-2"$ deep and $4'-10"$ high. An oak lintel spans above the fireplace, its underside chamfered against the heat and plastered on lath fastened with wrought nails.

Two rooms are in each storey of the south addition, both largely restyled in the late nineteenth century. The front room has a mantel with pilasters having applied pierced panels, an arched frieze with multiple applied panels and turned

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) local history	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One of the oldest extant properties along Main Street, #410 has also been one of Reisterstown's most valuable pieces of real estate.

The land belonged originally to John Reister, but as was his custom he eventually deeded some of his acreage, south of his Inn to a son-in-law, Henry Wiest who had married his daughter Betsey in 1773. The house was begun around this time most likely. This transaction took place in 1781 and the following year Henry bought additional acreage adjoining this lot (WG No. G:101/97 and WG No. G: 103 and No. M:134). He established a tanyard. Dr. Dickson (p.6) says that "this was the very first tanyard in this section of the country and no doubt added greatly to the prosperity of the town". Henry Wiest also was a currier, dressing and dying his own leather. Wiest eventually opened a store (by 1789). In the 1798 Federal Assessment, the Wiest property is described and the valuation of \$1,000.00 was a considerable sum for the time.

No. 3253 Owner and Occupant, Henry Wiest. Part of Brotherly Love. One stone Dwelling House two Story, with brick addition 40 x 27, by Stone addition one story, 17 x 17. One stone Smoke House one story, 11 x 12. 2 acres. Valuation \$1,000.00

Such a prosperous and upstanding citizen was Wiest that in 1793 he was appointed a Justice of the Peace. He was the first postmaster of Reisterstown and the post office was located here. He had an interest in a stagecoach line running from Baltimore to Carlisle, Pa. He also found time to manage the Reister Inn or tavern under the ownership of his nephew, John Smith. He was indeed an early entrepreneur in the town. He eventually was the executor of John Reister's estate. Eventually he moved out west to Indiana. (Marks. op.cit., p. 61-63 and 196)

A tract of Wiest land of over 11 acres plus his own adjoining tract (site of #410) was sold in 1814 to Adam Brenizer, a tanner of York County (WG No. 128:384-386). In settlement of a debt, Brenizer conveyed the whole tract to Christian Wiest in 1821 (relationship of Christian and Henry unknown). By 1830, the house and land had come into the possession of Solomon Choate, Henry's nephew by marriage (who purchased the property at a Public Sale for \$1651.00) Solomon Choate was also an industrious citizen. He kept a store on property adjoining his to the north (belonging to Catherine Mayberry). He also obtained a brickyard, established by James Thomas south of his house. (TK No. 277:509) (Marks. op.cot., p. 68-69) Some of the acreage (9 acres) excluding the house and a lot 187' by 367' deep was deeded to John Beckley

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Marks, Lillian B., Reisters Desire. (Baltimore, 1975)
 Early
 Dickson, Isaac N., Days of Reisterstown and Vicinity. (Reisterstown, Kiwanis Club, 1947)
 Land Records - Baltimore County, Maryland Towson, Md

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

11 FORM PREPARED BY James T. Wollon A.I.A.

NAME / TITLE

Cornelia M. Ives, Project Coordinator

September, 1978

ORGANIZATION

~~Mrs George Cosman, Volunteer Researcher~~
 Historic Reisterstown, Inc

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

430 Main Street

TELEPHONE

833-3078 (Ms Ives)

CITY OR TOWN

Reisterstown

STATE

Md

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

Continuation Sheet

B 4-167

Wiest House 1790's
410 Main Street
Reisterstown, Maryland
Baltimore County

7 Description Continued

roundels and scrolled brackets above the pilasters supporting a scrolled shelf. The rear room has a plainer mantel, plain pilasters supporting a plain frieze and shelf.

Original chair railing remains on the landing between the first and second floor, and much chair railing remains in place in the second storey, in the original section having a torus cap supported by a ~~syma~~ recta with bead, rising from a beaded facing, in the south addition having a torus cap supported by a cavetto with astrigal rising from a beaded facing. The second storey plan is similar to the first, with minor adaptations related to the apartments. No mantels are in the second storey. Both south rooms have original cupboards with paneled doors filling the recesses beside the chimneys.

In the unfinished attic, all flooring is attached with wrought nails, as is the shingle lath. The staircase is surrounded by a balustrade consisting of three beaded rails dovetailed into chamfered corner posts. The hewn rafters and collar beams (in the northerly section only, there being none in the southerly) are all joined by pegged mortise-and-tenon. Diagonal bracing is let into the top sides of the rafters. The northerly section was once plastered on lath fastened with wrought nails, probably original. The south gable of the original northerly section, partially extant, was of frame, covered with unpainted oak beaded weatherboards fastened with wrought nails. The attic of the west wing is late, related to the addition of its second storey, but the original hewn rafters were reused with a ridge board and they retain wrought iron nails for their original plaster finish in a former loft room above the kitchen.

The brick smokehouse attached to the west end of the kitchen wing has a corbeled brick cornice. High in its west gable four headers in a diaper were omitted as vents.

Continuation Sheet

34-167
Wiest House 1790's
410 Main Street
Reisterstown, Maryland
Baltimore County

8 Significance Continued

in 1831 (WG No. 210:363-66)(Marks.op. cit., p. 196)

(1861)
Upon Solomon Choate's death, the house and lot passed to his daughter, Maria Berryman and her husband James. In 1910, when Maria died, the property passed to her daughter, Bettie Berryman, the last remaining heir of Solomon Choate. She sold off the property with #410 to William Vondersmith in 1939 (CWB 1039/208).

William Vondersmith retained #410 from 1939-1947. In 1947 he sold it to Charles E. Eyler (JWB 1624/577).

In 1961, Charles E. Eyler's widow deeded the property to the G.T. Holding Corporation (WJR 3825/245).

In 1969 Guarantee Title Holding Corporation deeded the property to William R. Kahl (OTG 4996/453).

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Baltimore TOWN Reisterstown VICINITY Dist. IV STREET NO. 410 Main Street ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE PRESENT OWNER PRESENT USE WALL CONSTRUCTION NO. OF STORIES		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY BA-168	
		2. NAME #410 Main Street DATE OR PERIOD 1773 STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER	
		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC <p style="text-align: center;"> Considered the oldest house in the town; originally the home of Henry Weist, the first post master and son-in-law of John Reister, Sr. -- of stone and stucco construction. </p> <p style="text-align: right;"> (second HABS report) E. Frances Offutt HABS COMMITTEE OF BALTIMORE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY March 20, 1968 </p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER DATE OF RECORD	

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE



BA 167

West House

410 Main St

Reist. Md.

Carol Pollack

4/77

East.